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National

1- U.S. energy CO2 emissions jump for first time in 5 years, E&E News, 11/27/19

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2019/11/27/stories/1061655713>

Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions rose in the United States last year for the first time since 2014, according to an analysis posted yesterday from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

2 – EPA Narrows Guidance on Grouping Manufacturers for Air Permits, Bloomberg, 11/27/19

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/epa-narrows-guidance-on-grouping-manufacturers-for-air-permits>

Chemical plants, paper mills, and mining operations that are located side by side will be treated as a single major source subject to stringent air pollution controls—but anything beyond this basic definition will no longer be—according to final EPA guidance released Nov. 26.

3 - EPA Clean Water Act Interpretation Reasonable, Court Says, Bloomberg, 11/26/19

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/epa-clean-water-act-interpretation-reasonable-court-says>

The EPA's determination that it "categorically" can't regulate pollution-via-groundwater under the Clean Water Act is entitled to deference despite "opening a gaping regulatory loophole," the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts said Nov. 26.

4 – Major journal editors blast EPA's 'secret science' rule, again, Science, 11/26/19

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/11/major-journal-editors-blast-epa-s-secret-science-rule-again>

The editors of six major scientific journals have raised a new alarm about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) controversial data transparency proposal. The proposal could become "a mechanism for suppressing the use of relevant scientific evidence in policy-making, including public health regulations," the editors of Science, Nature, PLOS, Cell Press, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences write today in a joint statement.

5 – BOEM rejects \$4.4M in leases after critical federal report, E&E News, 11/27/19

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2019/11/27/stories/1061655321>

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) rejected \$4.4 million worth of oil and gas industry bids to potentially drill in the Gulf of Mexico from a recent auction that otherwise netted \$155.

6 – Climate cases may see ripple effect from Superfund battle, E&E News, 11/27/19

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2019/11/27/stories/1061654585>

A Supreme Court showdown over environmental cleanups could make waves in the growing pool of legal actions by cities and states to get Big Oil to pay for the costs of climate change impacts within their borders.

7 - 'Highly unusual' move puts Region 9 chief's office in LA, E&E News, 11/27/19

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1061653561>

Despite alarms raised by EPA's watchdog office and legal staff, Chief of Staff Ryan Jackson switched a top political appointee's workplace from San Francisco to Los Angeles, moving him closer to home.

Texas

8 – The latest: Injuries reported in Port Neches plant explosion, Houston Chronicle, 11/27/19

<https://www.chron.com/news/article/The-latest-Explosion-at-Port-Neches-plant-14866093.php>

Three workers at the TPC Group plant in Port Neches were injured in an explosion. Houston-based TPC Group has a 75-year history in Port Neches and the Port of Houston dating back to 1944 when the legacy plants in Port Neches and Houston were opened by two different companies.

9 - First-of-a-kind CCS gas plant moves ahead, E&E News, 11/27/19

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2019/11/27/stories/1061655743>

A partner in NET Power LLC said it's evaluating sites for a commercial version of the natural gas power plant it labeled a "great success" as a pilot project in Texas that aims for near-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

New Mexico

10 - New Mexico officials, activist continue fight against rollback of EPA methane rules, Carlsbad Current Argus, 11/26/19

<https://www.currentargus.com/story/news/local/2019/11/26/new-mexico-officials-activist-continue-fight-epa-methane-rules/4306992002/>

New Mexico Attorney General Hector Baldras joined a coalition of U.S. Attorneys General which sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy last week opposing the EPA's proposed rollback of federal regulations of methane emissions from the oil and gas industry.

Louisiana

11 – Corps proposes \$514 million Upper Barataria levee to protect West Bank parishes, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 11/26/19

https://www.nola.com/news/article_f0375742-1092-11ea-a51d-57b1043847b0.html

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed building a new \$514 million, 18.3-mile Upper Barataria levee system to protect portions of seven south Louisiana parishes, including the west banks of Jefferson, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist, from the flooding caused by hurricane surge and intense rainfall events.